



By Alan Dart

Cupid's Arrow

Alan Dart's cute Cupid will deliver your Valentine's message straight down to the person you love!



Pattern info

You will need...

Sirdar, Bonus DK

Flesh Tone (963), 100g/280m ball
White (961), 100g/280m ball
Signal Red (977), 40in (1m) length
Antique Rose (892), 12in (30cm) length

Sirdar, Country Style DK

Mustard (537), 100g/318m ball

Sirdar, Snowflake DK

Pure White (300), 50g/170m ball
Lemon (252), 50g/170m ball

A pair of 3mm needles

Short blunt pencil

Toy stuffing

Black cotton perlé embroidery thread

6x3in(15x7.5cm) piece of stout card

Plastic drinking straw

Pink pencil

Bamboo skewer

Long tweezers

Clear adhesive

For where to buy, turn to page 104

Cupid's Arrow

Who could resist this charming Cupid? His cute curls and tiny bow and arrow can't fail to melt the iciest heart! Alan Dart's toys always prove enormously popular and this delightful little angel is bound to be loved just as much as his other makes.

Using Sirdar DK yarns, this cupid is quick and simple to knit up – a perfect last-minute surprise for Valentine's Day. If you've knitted one of Alan's toys before, then you'll know just how much fun they are, and if you haven't you're in for a treat. Label each piece as you knit it so you don't get them mixed up, it saves lots of time when making up!

There are plenty of ways to add a personal touch, too, as Alan suggests: "Why not make Cupid look like the recipient did as a baby? You could change the hair colour, or reduce it to a wisp! Perhaps the pants could also be knitted in a favourite colour, too!"

Start knitting here...

NOTE: Use 3mm needles throughout, cast on by using the cable (two needle) method, and begin all pieces with a K row.

BODY (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 14 sts with White Bonus for base edge and st st 2 rows.

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [28 sts]

Purl 1 row.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [42 sts]

St st 13 rows.

SHAPE WAIST

Dec row (K1, k2tog, K2, k2tog) to end. [30 sts]

Knit 1 row.

Change to Flesh Tone and st st 12 rows, beg with a K row.

SHAPE SIDES

1st dec row (K5, SKPO, K2, k2tog, K3) twice, K2. [26 sts]

Purl 1 row.

2nd dec row (K5, SKPO, k2tog, K3) twice, K2. [22 sts]

Purl 1 row.

Cast off for shoulder edge.

NECK AND HEAD (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 9 sts with Flesh Tone for base edge of neck and st st 4 rows.

SHAPE BASE OF HEAD

1st inc row Inc into every st to end. [18 sts]



Cupid is a little work of art!
Sirdar Snowflake is perfect for the wings and hair.

Purl 1 row.

2nd inc row (Inc 1, K1) to end. [27 sts]

St st 3 rows.

3rd inc row (K1, inc 1, K1) to end. [36 sts]

St st 5 rows.

SHAPE CHEEKS

Dec row K8, (SKPO, k2tog) twice, K4, (SKPO, k2tog) twice, K8. [28 sts]

St st 3 rows.

4th inc row K1, (inc 1, K2) to end. [37 sts]

Purl 1 row.

5th inc row K14, inc 1, K6, inc 1, K15. [39 sts]

Purl 1 row.

6th inc row K3, (inc 1, K3) to end. [48 sts]

St st 9 rows.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end. [36 sts]

St st 3 rows.

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [24 sts]

Purl 1 row.

3rd dec row (K2tog) to end. [12 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

LEGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

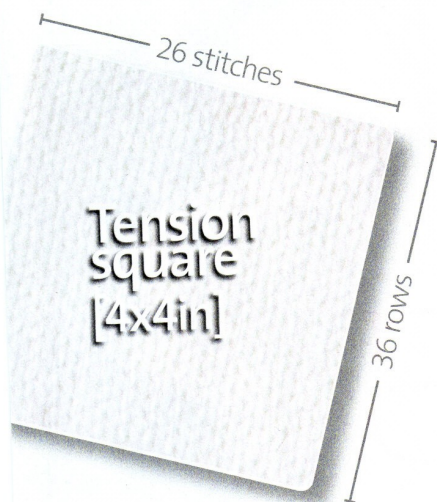
Cast on 20 sts with White Bonus for top edge and K 2 rows.

Change to Flesh Tone and st st 2 rows, beg with a K row.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows two more times. [14 sts]



Tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:
26 sts and 36 rows to measure 4x4in
(10x10cm) over stocking stitch using
3mm needles.

Measurement

7½in (19cm) tall, when sitting



"I use a pencil stub to make the loops for the hair so the curls are small enough."

Alan Dart, toy and knitwear designer

St st 4 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [12 sts]
Purl 1 row.
Cast off for ankle edge.

FEET (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 6 sts with Flesh Tone for back edge and st t 2 rows.
Inc row (Inc 1, K1, inc 1) twice. [10 sts]
St st 7 rows.

SHAPE FRONT

Cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows.
[4 sts]
Cast off.

ARMS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 6 sts with Flesh Tone for top edge and st st 2 rows.
Inc 1 st at beg and end of next 2 rows. [10 sts]
Cast on 2 sts at beg of next 2 rows for underarm. [14 sts]
St st 4 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.
St st 3 rows.
Repeat the last 4 rows once more. [10 sts]

SHAPE HAND

Inc row (Inc 1, K3, inc 1) twice. [14 sts]

Will you lose your heart to little Cupid?



St st 5 rows.
1st dec row (SKPO, K3, k2tog) twice. [10 sts]
Purl 1 row.
2nd dec row (SKPO, K1, k2tog) twice. [6 sts]
Purl 1 row.
Cast off.

THUMBS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 3 sts with Flesh Tone.
Cast off.

WINGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 24 sts with Pure White Snowflake for base edge and st st 2 rows.
Inc row (Inc 1, K10, inc 1) twice. [28 sts]
St st 2 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [26 sts]
Cast off 3 sts, cast on 5 sts, K to end. [28 sts]
Cast off 3 sts, cast on 5 sts, P to end. [30 sts]

KNIT TIP

If you find embroidery too fiddly for the eyes, you can always sew on some tiny seed beads instead.

Inc & dec row Inc 1, K12, (k2tog) twice, K12, inc 1. [30 sts]
1st dec row P13, (p2tog) twice, P13. [28 sts]
2nd dec row K12, (k2tog) twice, K12. [26 sts]
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [24 sts]
Next row Cast off 3 sts, cast on 5 sts, K to end. [26 sts]
Next row Cast off 3 sts, cast on 5 sts, P to end. [28 sts]
Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. [30 sts]
St st 2 rows.
3rd dec row (P2tog, P11, p2tog) twice. [26 sts]
Cast off for top edge.

NOSE (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 9 sts with Flesh Tone for base edge and st st 2 rows.
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

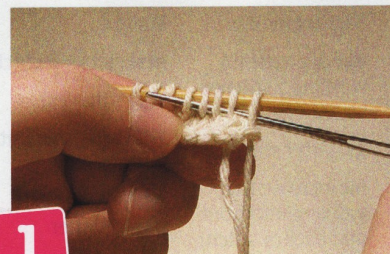
EARS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 8 sts with Flesh Tone and K 1 row.
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

How to...

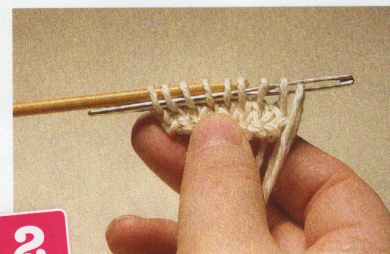
Make the nose

Cupid's cute little nose is created from a few rows of stocking stitch.



1

When you reach the final row of knitting, cut the yarn leaving a long length and thread it onto a needle. Now push the needle through all the stitches on the knitting needle.



2

Pull stitches off the knitting needle.



3

Pull the thread through the stitches.



4

Draw the stitches up together.



5

Keep the stitches tight and sew down the sides. Stuff the nose and stitch in place.



Pattern info

Abbreviations

beg beginning	sl slip
dec decrease (by working 2 stitches together)	st st stocking stitch
gs garter stitch	st(s) stitch(es)
inc increase (by working into front and back of stitch)	SKPO slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
K knit	tog together
P purl	yb yarn back
	yf yarn forward.

Delicate embroidered eyes are the finishing touch to little Cupid's happy face.

HAIR (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Loop pattern:

Row 1 (K st but do not sl off needle, YF, wrap yarn round pencil to form loop, YB, K st again and sl off needle, pass first st over second and remove pencil, this will have made one loop, K1) to end.

Rows 2 & 4 Knit.

Row 3 (K1, make loop as before) to end.

These 4 rows form the pattern.

Cast on 50 sts with Lemon Snowflake for base edge.

Pattern 5 rows.

1st dec row (K2, k2tog, K1) to end. [40 sts]

Pattern 3 rows.

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog, K1) to end.

[30 sts]

Pattern 3 rows.

3rd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [20 sts].

Pattern 3 rows.

4th dec row (K2tog) to end.

[10 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

BOW (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 36 sts with Mustard for inside edge and K 1 row.

P 3 rows for fold line.

K 1 row.

Cast off knit wise for inside edge.

ARROW HEART (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 4 sts with Signal Red.

Cast off.

ARROW FEATHERS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Cast on 2 sts with White Bonus and gs 8 rows.

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

For best results, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one stitch knitted seam turning has been allowed on all pieces to accommodate this method.

Work a gathering thread through every stitch along the base edge of the body, draw up tightly and fasten off, then join body seam. Stuff body firmly then, with body seam running down centre back, fold shoulder edge flat and sew across, leaving a ½in (12mm) space open in centre.

Make neck support by cutting a 2in (5cm) length of drinking straw and winding a ½in (12mm) section in centre with Flesh Tone yarn, holding in place with a little glue. Now cover this bound section with another layer of yarn to make a double thickness, again holding in place with glue.

Join head seam, starting at gathered top edge and stopping 1¼in (3cm) away from base edge of neck. Stuff firmly, insert neck support so that bound section corresponds with neck, then join remainder of seam, adding more stuffing to base of head if necessary. There

Sirdar's fab DK yarns are great stash staples – why not keep some handy?



should now be an unbound length of straw extending below base of neck. Work a gathering thread through every stitch along first increase row at base of head, draw up to shape and fasten off securely. Using a large knitting needle, insert into opening at top of body and turn to make a hole through stuffing. Matching head and body seams, insert neck straw into hole and sew base edge of neck to top of body.

Join each leg seam and use tweezers to stuff legs firmly. Fold each foot in half and sew across back edge, then up side, leaving front edge open. Use tweezers to stuff foot firmly, then fold front edge flat and sew across. With leg seam running down centre back, position and sew each leg to a foot, then sew top edge of each leg to body in sitting position, spacing legs 4 knitted stitches apart.

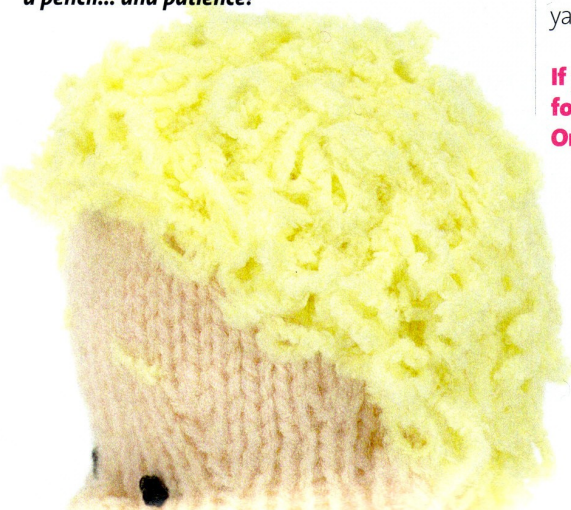
Fold each arm in half and sew across front edge of hand, then join hand and arm seam, stopping at underarm. Leaving hands unstuffed, use tweezers to stuff arms firmly, then position and sew top edge of each arm to body side, placing so that left arm faces forward and right arm backward.

Treating purl side of work as right side, fold each wing piece in half then join across top edge and round all three feathers down side, leaving base edge open. Stuff wings lightly, then sew across base edge. Position and sew wings to back of body, spacing 2 knitted stitches apart.

Join seam on hair piece then, matching head and hair seams, position hair on head and sew in place by working backstitch round base edge. Sew ears in place at sides of head.

Join side seam on nose piece, then work a gathering thread through every stitch along base edge. Use tweezers to stuff firmly, then draw up gathering thread and sew nose in

For the perfect curl, you don't need tongs – you need a pencil... and patience!



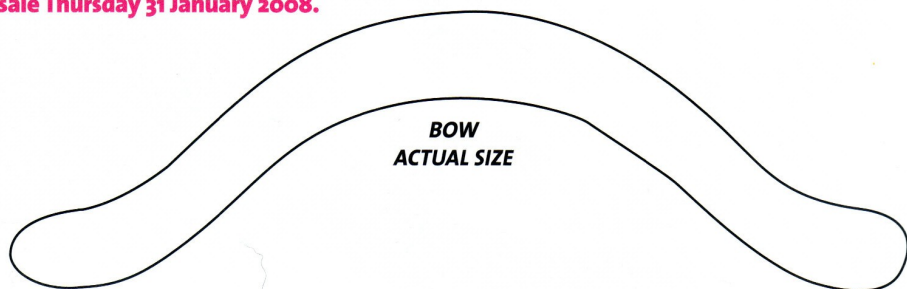
position on head, placing centrally, with top in line with cheek shaping row. Mark eye positions with pins, spacing 2 knitted stitches apart, then use black embroidery thread to work a circle of 5 tiny chain stitches for each eye. Carefully draw out a single strand from length of Antique Rose yarn and use this to embroider a curved mouth of 7 chain stitches. Use Lemon Snowflake to embroider two, horizontal, straight stitches above the eyes for eyebrows. Blush cheeks with pink pencil, working in a circular motion to gradually build up colour.

Trace off bow former (template below) and cut from card. Wrap knitted bow piece round former, matching knitted fold line to outer edge, then oversew inside edges together and down both side edges. Cut a 3in (7.5cm) length of skewer for arrow and bind closely with Mustard yarn, holding in place with a little glue. Glue one end of arrow to centre of bow and leave to set hard. Sew heart pieces together, using a yarn end to bind remaining three ends together and form a point at base of heart. Secure binding with a spot of glue, then trim away excess yarn. Glue heart to bow, covering end of arrow, then glue feather pieces to opposite end of arrow. Take a 12in (30cm) length of embroidery thread and glue centre point to end of arrow. Now sew one end of thread into end of bow, leaving slack. Spread a little glue on thread and draw into knitting, pulling taut, and leave to set, then trim away excess thread. Repeat with remaining end of yarn on opposite end of bow.

Position bow and arrow at front of body, then glue centre of bow to left hand and end of arrow to right underarm. Bend right arm at elbow and catch hand in place at end of arrow with a few stitches. Use ends of yarn to sew a thumb on to each hand, fixing in place with a spot of glue before drawing up yarn completely, then trim away excess yarn.

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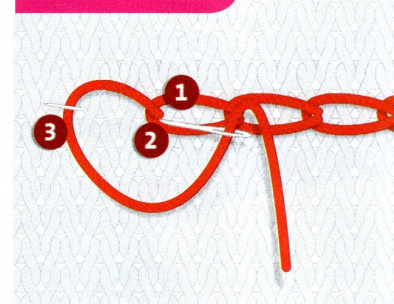
If you adore Alan Dart's toys, pick up issue 38 for his fantastic St Patrick's Day leprechaun! On sale Thursday 31 January 2008.



How to... Embroider

Use this chain stitch to give Cupid his cute eyes and happy smile.

Chain stitch



A series of loops, chain stitch can be used for straight or curving lines or even in rows to fill shapes. Come out of the fabric at 1, where you want to begin, and leaving a loop, go back down again in the same hole at 2. Bring the needle out again at 3, keeping the thread under the needle. Repeat. Make a small stitch over the last loop.



Take your time with the embroidery to make sure the expression is right!